



## The Wall Revealed to the City

Listed as a national monument, King Dinis' Wall is the only medieval city wall in Lisbon which can be fully enjoyed and understood in an Interpretation Centre. The exhibition is located in the crypt of the old Church of S. Julião and invites you to discover objects, sounds and images that characterized the sandy banks of the River Tagus in the Roman, Medieval and Modern periods. A journey through more than 1000 years of Lisbon's history.

## King Dinis' Wall

King Dinis' Wall is a crucial monument for understanding the history of Lisbon.

At the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Lisbon was an important economic and trade centre suffering attacks coming from the sea. In order to defend people and goods, King Dinis had a wall built in the city's riverside.

Prior to *Cerca Fernandina* (wall of King Fernando), which caused its slow decline, King Dinis' Wall was in use for nearly 75 years. Next to it one could witness the everyday routine of the people and feel the typical bustle of the reign's capital.

Through the centuries, many buildings used this robust construction to support their own walls, such as the *Ribeira* Royal

Palace which King Manuel built at the age of the Discoveries.

In 1755, the Lisbon Earthquake damaged the structure almost entirely. The wall was kept buried for more than 250 years. In 2010, archaeological excavations carried out for the refurbishment of Banco de Portugal headquarters brought this monument back to daylight.

At King Dinis' Wall - Interpretation Centre one can understand how this 13<sup>th</sup> century defence structure came to influence the capital's urban city planning afterwards.



MONEY MUSEUM  
BANCO DE PORTUGAL

Largo de S. Julião, Lisboa

Free admission  
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. | Wednesday to Sunday  
[www.museudodinheiro.pt](http://www.museudodinheiro.pt)

Group tours | Advance booking  
To book: T + 351 213 213 240 | [info@museudodinheiro.pt](mailto:info@museudodinheiro.pt)

Useful information  
The museum has a shop, café and auditorium.



Núcleo de Interpretação  
Interpretation Centre

Murralha  
D. DINIS Wall





**I KING DINIS** The long reign of King Dinis (1261-1325) saw him become one of the most important monarchs of his time. He established Portugal's borders and strategically boosted both domestic and international trade. He was responsible for the considerable importance given at that time to education, culture and the Portuguese language.

The soundtrack of the exhibition enhances the troubadour legacy left by the king. Video animations present King Dinis' genealogy, the Treaty of Alcanizes, among other images and documents of the time.

Portuguese and French coins – *tornês*, *dinheiro* and *gros tournois* – illustrate the fast growing international transactions taking place in Portugal.

**II TIMELINE ANIMATION** Projection on the crypt shows the evolution of urbanism on the riverfront, of the fences and walls and the anti-seismic system that has existed since the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**III LISBOA CENTRE OF CULTURE** The reconquest of Lisbon, in 1147, brought considerable economic growth. The city developed to the outskirts of the *Cerca Moura* (Moorish wall) towards the Baixa valley. Lisbon became ...

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**III** an important commercial and cultural hub in Europe and its court one of the biggest literary centres in the Iberian Peninsula. The medieval city is presented through images and documents that illustrate late-medieval urban design, trade and professions.

**IV TIME NARRATED BY ARCHAEOLOGY** Archaeological works enabled the possibility to characterize the development of Lisbon's Baixa area from the time of the Roman Empire to the present. Visual records document the work process step-by-step. All-around sounds resonate medieval times, recreating the everyday life of the markets and of the crafts of a moving city.

**V FROM FRAGMENTS TO ARTIFACTS** Traces of human presence stretch back to nearly 2000 years ago. Among more than 100 000 ceramic fragments recovered by archaeology most belong to the Roman and Islamic periods. Objects on display witness the commercial and maritime natural potential of Lisbon. 3D animations virtually reconstruct each object, thus completing the information regarding its shape, texture and purpose.

**VI THE WALL** This unexpected part of the wall reveals historical material evidence, such as the original, coarse and damaged covering of the footing, and – in a well defined upper strip – the wall covering of the Ribeira Royal Palace built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The sounds perceived enhance the room and refer us to the sandy banks of the Tagus, the strength of the waves and boats, and to the seagulls flying over the Tagus.



**1** Amulet | 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century. This type of object, already known in Classical Antiquity, was originally a symbol of a sexual nature. Over time, the symbolism evolved and it became an amulet to protect against the evil eye.



**4** Tile | 16<sup>th</sup> century. Tile with a polychrome geometrical design made using the typically Mudéjar, dry-string technique, which was very popular in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is believed that it belonged to one of the rooms of the old Ribeira Royal Palace, which went all the way up to the King Dinis' wall.



**5** Tower | 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century. Fragment of the top of a tower decorated with geometric motifs. The base is missing, making it impossible to clearly identify its nature. It may have been a chess piece or the tip of a distaff.



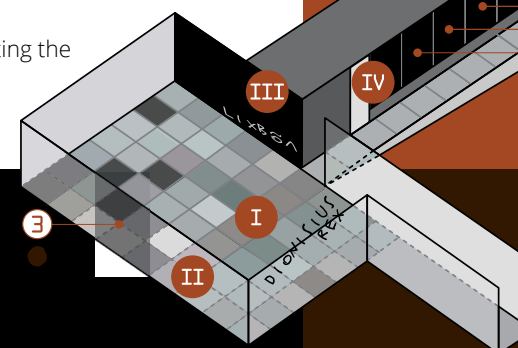
**6** Mortar | 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD. Fragment of the rim of a mortar stamped with the words "DIONYS(I) DOM LUCILI". It indicates that it was made by the potter *Dionysius* in the workshops belonging to the emperor Marcus Aurelius' mother, *Domitia Lucilla*.



**Tornês**  
1279-1325 | Silver

**Gros Tournois**  
1226-1270 | Silver

**Dinheiro**  
1279-1325 | Billon



**7** Crack in the plasterwork | A diagonal crack in the plasterwork that stretches from the top of the footing to the upper part of the wall. It is a likely consequence of seismic activity, possibly the 1755 earthquake.



**8** Pombaline Well | The Pombaline well was built after 1755, when the wall was already buried and traffic circulated almost at the same ground level as today. Wells provided water (sometimes drinkable) for domestic use and above all ensured sufficient supply to fight fires in the city.



**9** Ceramic wall covering | Ceramic wall covering possibly from one of the rooms of the Ribeira Royal Palace which absorbed King Dinis' Wall in the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.